Do You Realize What Woe Might Afflict Land Writhing in Grip of Coal Strike?

If Such a Cutting Off of Fuel as Seems Imminent in America Were Prolonged, **Every One Would** Suffer.

MMENSE forces are arrayed for struggle. The plans have been laid, the battalions have marched to their assigned positions-all is ready for the signal

Is America to be invaded? Are the Germans to fall upon our eastern coast and the Japanese upon our western shore? That might be less dangerous, less costly, less menacing to the present order of society than the internecine strife which is fac-

A coal strike worse than a war? The notion seems absurd-but this is a

day of absurdities which come to pass. Ask the English statesmen their opinion. Inquire of the German rulers, and sound the French. Consider all the facts.

One week from to-morrow, on April 1, the coal miners of the United States are expected to lay down their tools. They have laid down their tools before, but never in such a fashion and at such a time as to dislocate the industry of the nation. Their action could conceivably have the effect of a revolution; not because they intend it so, but because the mechanism of society has come complexly interdependent. The English programme of a minimum wage, backed by the threat of government ownership of coal mines, forecasts the possibilities in this country.

A world strike of coal miners may be at hand-England, Germany, France, Spainnext the United States and Canada,

Things will happen quickly here, as they have happened abroad. There will be no time to discuss theories of government. The Civil War cost \$1,000,000 a day. A coal strike may cost \$5,000,000 a day before it gets fairly going. In such an event Congress will act. Red tape will be cut.

Two weeks after a strike is declared on April 1 there will be comparatively little

WHERE COAL IS ALWAYS NEEDED.

This statement may not seem important. The cold weather will be about over then. We will hardly need coal for heating homes and offices. A strike will not con cern most of us. As a matter of fact, the shortage in coal is already felt, heat in apartments and offices is being conserved, and there are chilly days ahead. Moreover, when coal is not needed for heat, it is required for cooking, heating water, making light, for running trains and factories, for operating elevators and water systems and

Over in England the strike has caused the withdrawal of hundreds of trains from the schedules, has hindered navigation plunged cities and towns in comparative darkness, crippled commerce on sea and land. No one who lives in this society. poet or plutocrat, can escape the effects of possible industrial tie-up due to a lack of coal. One of the chief material foundations of our civilization is coal. Take that away, and we are sadly inconvenienced.

The mere threat of no coal has caused a rise of prices. Industry in the United States feels the tremors of approaching Before the strike begins there is straitening and curtailment. Soon after the miners quit work factories will begin to close down. Workers in many industries, men, women and children, who have no special reason or desire to stop work, will be thrown out of work. It has taken about a fortnight's strike to hamper England. About the same time will produce a similar result in this country.

After a few weeks of striking something will have to give way. Something or other will have to "bust." It may be a theory or a vested right. Whatever it a nation and retards its energies, that will

be removed. The last coal strike, ten years ago, went six months before coal trains were raided and a President of the United States unofficially compelled a compromise of the struggle. Conditions are different to-day. That was a half strike, involving only the anthracite workers. There was bituminous coal available. The present strike may include all who delve underground. Further more, a decade ago there were large stocks of coal stored as a reserve in anticipation of labor trouble. The stocks to-day are smaller. The severe winter, with heavy consumption of coal, is partly accountable for the depletion of the stores. The English strike has helped to drain the surplus coal treasuries. Thousands of tons have been loaded on foreign steamships, and other thousands would be taken, at fancy

prices, if any one wanted to deliver them. THE "MORAL" ELEMENT.

In comparing past with present conditions The miners to-day are compactly organized, they have money individually and colmore aggressive than they were in 1902. They and their leaders have declared for socialism. They have seen the attack of fight. They will probably get one.

the operators. These matters have been politely discussed by employers and employed at conferences in New York and Cleveland. The result is, apparently-fight. When a conflict like this is in sight minds are too inflamed to engage in a rational consideration of rights and wrongs. Both sides have made statements to the public, giving ostensible allegiance to "a decent regard for the opinions of mankind," but in fact each side will cling to its own opinion of what constitutes its rights.

There are scores of thousands of miners on one side and the many operators on the all began-even the mightiest of us-humother. The operators represent, among bly and simply. When I hear one person other interests, ten coal owning and carry- snubbing another on grounds of birth the ing railroads. In the bituminous field the employers are more numerous and less or- It reminds me of a Mayflower girl. ed then in the anthracite.

The demands of the miners are, on second thought, worth looking at, not from a a Grand Rapids millionaire. But her husof fighting spirit. The chief demands are more pay, shorter hours, union recognition from insulting him on account of his low and yearly wage contracts. The last is the origin. strongest demand. It means no more long term engagements. A chance to fight every year! The radical spirits of labor would rather gain this point than any other. It is a long remove from the John Mitchell policy of a decade ago.

A feature which may aggravate the effects of a strike and bring the cause of the miners into disrepute will be the possible adoption of passive sabotage at the minesthat is, the calling out of engineers and pumpmen, along with other workers, so mines will fill with water. The old-fashioned labor leaders were careful "turkey trot." to leave enough men at work to look after the pumps. If the European revolutionary policy is adopted the mines will be damaged, and it will take a considerable time to prepare them for a resumption of work en the strike is ended. It will take two theatrical agent one day: weeks, it is said, to resume operations in the English mines, which have been more I've hung around your office, out of work,

period of fuel famine. The Tribune's authority for the statethat in the event of a strike we swered thoughtfully: would be two weeks from a coal famine is F. E. Saward, who is quoted by the fed- The "turkey trot" is all the go. You train eral government as an expert. Mr. Saward some animal or bird to do the "turkey trot" said that the United States was usually one month shead of anthracite coal production, but the hard winter and the foreign

when piled up, and the reserve in that fuel A general coal strike would probably

four weeks' supply.

in a panic. Thousands of tons are lying for manufacture. It would be, for the in private bins-"withdrawn from circu- country, a choice of two evils. the "moral" element cannot be overlooked. lation"-of no immediate use to its owners

tuminous coal is not readily storable, owing | in the complex organization of modern in- | naces are built for using small sizes of an- | As usual, speculators are taking advan- | piles at the mines supplied plenty of mato its tendency to spontaneous combustion dustry.

cannot be large. There are six million tons cause conditions worse than a financial of anthracite coal sent to market each vanic. Widespread unemployment is likely onth. About half of this amount will be to be accompanied by high prices. In times Other estimates place the visible reserve low. The cost of food would advance and at three weeks' supply. William Green, a there might be serious shortage of almost former state Senator, statistician of the necessary commodities. In England fish United Mine Workers, made a forecast of have become exorbitantly dear because the steam trawlers have no coal. Both in man-If the four weeks' estimate be accepted, it ufacture and transportation our food does not mean clear sailing for industry ply might be affected by lack of fuel. that period. The effects of pan- American railroads, which own coal mines, ic, present and future, must be con- are in a better position than foreign roads, sidered. There is no equitable distri- and to that extent the blow to transportabution of the reserve coat. At the pres- tion would be less severe. But the more ent time coal is being hoarded like money coal reserved for transportation the less

If the tie-up should be incomplete in the and contributing to the straitening of the bituminous field there would still be conmarket. This is especially true of house- siderable inconvenience. A law forbids the It is of no special interest to examine the cause another factory from which it obtains grates are needed for soft coal, which clogs roads cannot suspend on a question of There is an endless chain of consequences consumption. A large number of city fur- months, it is said.

thracite coal. These would have to be rad- tage of the situation and are on the way terial for briquettes, as well as the small ically remodelled for soft coal.

The chances of importing coal, if that remote necessity should arise, are scant. Europe has none to export. Canadian miners are expected to strike with the American workers. If some bituminous is imported from Nova Scotia at, say, \$20 a ton-the price obtained a decade ago-there will not be enough of it, in the somewhat than \$2,500,000 a year on coal. The condealer, "to singe a cat's tail."

The effect upon industry of coal prices so high as to be prohibitive is an important point. Even if coal can be had, it must be had at a price which manufacturers and other users can afford to pay. A rate of \$15 or \$20 a ton would close down a great number of factories in the country. There are, of course, establishments which must keep going at any cost. The hotels and office buildings will not close because of lectively saved from their wages, they are holders, who have had the means to stock use of smoke-producing coal in New York the expense of fuel. Hospitals must have up. Some factories and railroads have a and other cities. If this law be waived, as fuel-at least, theoretically; English hospiplentiful reserve. Others have little. A has been done before, and the discomfort tals have felt the pinch. The city of New four weeks' supply inequitably distributed and unwholesomeness of a grimy atmos- York must keep its water pumping plants their fellow workers in England, not to or held at famine prices may be equal to phere be accepted, the problem would not in operation, even if coal costs a dollar a mention Germany or France. They have no more than two weeks' supply for the all be solved. Furnaces and stoves made to pound. The high pressure fire system must be take its uncertain chances in the open made strong demands and are looking for a country as a whole. A factory which has burn anthracite coal are not suited to biplenty of coal may have to shut down be- tummous coal. A larger space and wider panies, the subway, elevated and surface

to reap fortunes. The retail dealer, who sizes of anthracites. The culm piles are has not raised the circular price of the now becoming exhausted, and the briquette will probably not be made this year. New York, as a municipality, spends more

extravagant language of a New York sumption last year was about \$10,000 tons, price of bituminous was offset by the fancy prices paid for some grades of anthracity. The Department of Water Supply, Gas and ent fuels is about as follows: Wood, 30: Electricity is the largest coal user, to the peat, 40; soft coal, 50; hard coal, 70. tune of half a million dollars a year. This department falled to receive active bids the wad of newspapers bound together with quoted for buckwheat were \$6 to \$7 a ton, newspapers rolled tightly into a ball. or double the market quotations. No bids Chalk in an open fireplace, where a blaze by Borough President McAneny. It is said one-quarter of the coal and looks cheerful. the dealers disapprove the city's scientific Broken bricks serve the same purpose specifications for coal. The city will have Peat is being used extensively abroad.

wholesalers to his regular customers, has industry is not sufficiently developed to figin some cases profited by selling out all his ure largely in the situation. Abroad many stock at the high winter rate. The sched-kinds of organic refuse, such as sawdust, uled reduction of 50 cents a ton for April leaves, roots, lichens, fatty and resinous byproducts of factories are pressed into bricks as fuel. The householder who has thrown out his ashes unsifted may recover 10 or 15 per cent of fuel by sifting and sorting them. The ash pile in the back the average price was \$4.00 a ton. The low | yard that was considered a nulsance may be worth a number of dollars. The comparative heating value of differ-

An English genius has discovered that a other day for 30,000 tons of coal for the wire will burn like a log and will produce Ridgewood pumping station, and the prices heat. Also it is possible to light coal with sta. were made on a large lot of coal wanted is desired more for looks than heat, saves

It is obvious that the most practical coal substitutes are oil, gasoline and gas. There are many substitutes for coal sug- all of these can be readily adopted except gested and ways of eking out scarcity. In domestic use. The oil heater and cook demands of the miners, nor the answer of partly manufactured goods lacks fuel. up into large clinkers. It might be feasible price. These companies and roads have Each shutdown tends to cause another. to adapt some furnaces for bituminous coal supplies ranging from ten days to three of coal dust and tar pressed together, is of oil in coal-burning furnaces entails a good. A few years ago the great culm rather expensive adaptation. It is a more

According to Government Expert, We Are Only Two Weeks Away from Coal Famine if Mines Close.

complicated problem than changing from anthracite to bituminous coal. However, under the stress of necessity the English are changing the coal-burning furnaces of both locomotives and steamships to of burners. Two railroads, the Midland and the Midland Great Western of Ireland are putting in oil, while the Great Eastern Company has for some time equipped many of its engines with oil burners. It is said a coal-burning locomotive may be converted into an oil burner in twenty-four hours at a cost of \$350. An oil-engined vessel, the Selandia, carries enough liquid fuel to take her on a trip around the world.

Oil will mitigate the hardship of a strike, but will not prevent the temporary hampering of industry. The average manufacturer cannot equip his plant for oil consumption at short notice, or will not do so because of the problematic period of dimculty. In the future oil may dethrone coal; to-day coal is king.

The latest available government report

on coal in the United States gives the figures for 1910. The document is issued by the Geological Survey under the Department of the Interior and is entitled "The Froduction of Coal in 1910," by Edward W. Parker. The total production for the year was half a billion tons, having a value at the mines of some \$630,000,000. The retail value was several times as much. Pennsylvania anthracite amounted to about \$4,000,-000 tons, of a "spot" value of \$160,000,000, while bituminous coal and lignite amounted \$469,000,000. This great output was attained despite the fact that the soft coal mines in half a dozen Middle Western states were closed by strikes for nearly six months. The per capita coal consumption of the country increased from 31/2 tons in 1900 to five tons in 1910.

The coal mines of the United States employed 725,000 men, of whom 162,000 worked the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania and 555,000 in the soft coal fields. The anthracite workers averaged 229 days in the average being 220 days of employment. Average production per man in the anthracite mines was 498 tons for the year, or 2.17 tons for each working day, compared with 751 tons for the year and 3.46 for each working day in the soft coal districts. Nearly half of the soft coal was mined with the aid of "under-cutting" machines. It cost one life to mine 140,000 tons of anthracite, the total fatalities being 601. From 1899 to 1910, inclusive, 6.553 workers were killed and

AMERICA EXPORTS LITTLE COAL. Practically all the cost mined in the United States is consumed here. Exports in 1910 amounted to a little more than 3 per cent of the production. Imports are small and chiefly to the Pacific Coast and to Boston. "No account is taken of the stock on hand at the beginning and the end of the year," says the report. "The coal mining industry is the best of a hand-to-mouth character, and stocks de not figure in the trade. The conditions under which the anthracite mines are operated, the greater depths to which the workings are carried, the consequent increased expense of mining and the increasing cost of labor all contribute to make anthracite fuel more and more a luxury. No hope is held out to the consumer that anthracite will in the future be sold at lower prices than those which prevail today, but, on the other hand, there is every reason to believe that prices must advance in accordance with the increasing

cost of production. The Geological Survey report commends the coal dealers for the "policy of making an allowance of 50 cents a ton from circular prices for domestic coal purchased in April of each year, with an advance of 10 cents a ton for each succeeding month until the schedule prices are restored in September." This is alleged to have a salutary effect in steadying the

Coal is not dear because the supply in the ground is running short. The draft on the original supply since mining began in the United States, says the report, has been less than one-half of 1 per cent. At the present rate of production there is enough left for six thousand years. Hard coal will last for one or two centuries. This country leads the world in coal production-39 per cent of the total of 1,500. 000,000 tons. Great Britain comes second with about half as much, then Germany, and at long distances Austria-Hungary and France, followed by Belgium and Rus-

New York City is estimated to have used 16,000,000 tons of coal in 1910, of which 11,-000,000 tons were anthracite and 4,500,000 tons were bituminous. About as much more

"In Manhattan," says the report, "the

usiness is essentially one of day-to-day

coal went through the harbor. DAY-TO-DAY DELIVERIES HERE.

deliveries, owing to the absence of large storage yards and to the difficulty and cost of providing storage at most points. The only consumers who carry habitually more in stock than the needs for a day or two are a few power houses and factories along the river front. . . . local delivery is high everywhere in the . . . One result of the conditions in Manhattan and Brooklyn has been the crowding out of the smaller dealers. Factory trade went to the big firms long ago, and now house trade is conducted almost

At Quaretaro, in Mexico, soap takes the entirely by the larger firms, which serve the householders and the pedlers who sell by the 100-pound bag and the bushel to the myriads of tenement and small flat Soap is made from garbage in the newest dwellers. Retail prices in New York vary from \$1.50 to \$2 above tidewater price, which has been lately at \$6 for domestic sizes. The small lot price for the tenement trade is normally at the rate of \$10 or \$12 a ton. The winter afternoon was like June, and, Several large retailers handle a million taking tea under a palm on the lawn of tons a year."

The following table gives the coal sterthe Royal Poinciana at Palm Beach, a age capacity of the railroads at points "This morning I p..otographed an alli- from which New York and the East would gator. My boy, to get him, stripped and chiefly derive their supply of anthracite

Delawure & Hudson, Carbondale,

Penn.
Lehigh Valley, Wende, N. Y.
Lerie Railroad, Buffalo, N. Y.
Erie Railroad, Rochelle Park, N. J.
Susquehanna Coal Company, McCleilan, Penn.
Coal Company, Old

N. Y.

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western
Ralifcoad Company, Scranton, Penn.
Delaware, Lackawanna & Western
Ralifcoad Company, Dover, N. J.
New York, Ontario & Western, Middletown, N. Y.

help some to have the public fully aware "You said, the second time I refused of the situation in advance, prepared indi-You said, the second time I refused of the situation in advance, you, that you'd rather live in eternal tor- vidually and collectively to meet emergenced by cies and answer the riedle propo-

Told by Noted Persons in a Mood of After-Dinner Merriment tired circus man, and after a lot of hard rance of the editor of 'The Cinnaminson it in time completely. And the rot, which Spain, the soapherry of Chili and the bark

Seth Barton French, at a banquet at Sherry's, in New York, condemned the American snob.

"America is a republic," he said. "We thing strikes me as ludicrous and unreal.

"A girl of Mayflower descent yielded to the pinch of poverty sufficiently to marry point of view, but as an indication band was a plebeian, and she would never forgive him for it. She would never cease

> "She was shopping one day, and a salesman said to her: "'And to whom shall I send the parcel madam? "With her nose in the air, she turned to

her maid and said: "Marie, tell this man your master's name. I never can remember it myself."

NECESSITY.

George M. Cohan, at an after-theatre supper at Delmonico's, was talking about the

"There's a moving little story about the 'turkey trot,' " he said, with his dreamy smile, "a story that illustrates well the

vicissitudes of an actor's life. "An elderly actor said in despair to a

"Is there nothing you can do for me or less neglected. That is a long time in for eight months now.' "The agent, as he polished his diamond ring with his red silk handkerchief, an-

"Took here. Bring yourself up to date with you, and I'll get you on one of the circuits at a three-figure salary.'

tion had cut the reserve in half. Bi- fully. He bought an ostrich from a re- reminds me in his narrowness and igno- mobile, "will grow over the filling, hiding the colossal, grimy Sphiax of the coal Belia."

There are natural soaps—the soaproot of "Weil, I had my wish," growled Marrit."

work he taught the bird to 'turkey trot' Scimitar.' Then he reported with him splendidly. himself to the agent again.

nothing to offer. The poor fellow turned up every day for a while, then every other created it." day, then every third day, but there was nothing doing, and at last a week went by and said reproachfully: without his appearance at the agent's office, "Then the agent sent for him, and said;

'Well, I've fixed you up at last. I've booked you for that turn of yours at -"But the old sctor interrupted, sadly: 'It's too late now,' he said.

the agent, frowning. Tve had to cat my partner,' muttered

ADVICE.

Medill McCormick, president of the Illinois Progressive Republican League, was talking at a dinner in Chicago about certain old-fashioned campaigning methods. "Those methods," said Mr. McCormick

'seem as cumbe: some to us as the methods of the mover seemed to the inebriate. "As an inebriate rested against a lamp bost a mover passed him. The mover, an

economical chap, was doing his moving by hand, and he had on his back a huge grandfather's clock. "The inebriate stared vacantly at the

sweating figure bent under the weight of the great clock, and then hiccoughed and hailed him. " 'Hey,' he said, 'hey-hic-there!"

"The mover, stoping, turned slowly." Well, what is it? he asked. "'Take my advice, young fel,' said the inebriate, 'an' buy 'shelf-hic-a watch.' '

RARE TYPE OF EDITOR.

Senator Crane was talking about an op ponent of arbitration. takes a narrow, selfish view of things. He

"The editor of The Cinnaminson Scim itar,' reading the copy of a cub reporter "But the agent, for all his promises, had from Yale, came to the sentence: "'Cæsar not merely met opportunity-he

> "The editor looked up from this sentence 'Look here, what do you want to ad-

A ROCKEFELLER FAKE.

"It's a Rockefeller fake," said a Phila-

delphia broker, "one of those innumerable "Too late? How is it too late?" said Rockefeller fakes that float around the ountry, but, fake or not, I'll tell it to you. "John D. (so the fake runs) got a very suspicious looking cake by mail the other He wrapped it up in a newspaper and took it to a chemist. "Is this likely to be poisoned?" he asked.

"'It certainly looks like a poisoned cake to me,' said the chemist. 'Leave it here And he smelled it, then he tasted and spat out a very tiny currant. 'Leave it here, Mr. Rockefeller. I'll analyze it for you.' "'How much will the analysis cost?" " "Ten dollars, sir.

"John D. bundled up the cake in the newspaper again. 'Humph!' he said, as he tucked it under his arm, 'it'll be cheaper to try it on Arch-

bold's cat." THE TREE DENTIST.

brown dust, the rotten wood. When the cavity was quite clean he disinfected it with corrosive sublimate-he sprayed it as a tooth is sprayed.

Next he filed it, very carefully, with a germ proof cement. The top of the filling | The ancient Britons invented soap. The he smoothed neatly off, and the edges of Romans, two thousand years ago, carried "The man is not liberal," he said. "He the adjacent bark he drew over the cement. "The bark," as he explained, as he threw factured soap in Savona, whence the French

would have destroyed the tree, will now of the Peruvian soap tree, cease, as decay ceases in a filled tooth."

At Quaretaro, in Mexico, place of copper coinage. The Tierra del Fuegans cat soap, finding TWO SMILES. the fat therein really nourishing. They say Ezra Pound, the poet, was talking at the they like the taste, too.

Authors Club, in New York, about Shelley's

cremation. "Cremation, although beautiful," he said, "lends itself to ribald jest in a way that

sepulture doesn't. "Who can forbear a smile at the thought of that devoted young matron, who, her front steps being covered with sleet, sprin-

kled her first husband's ashes over them in order that her second husband might descend in safety? Smiling himself, Mr. Pound resumed: "And who could forbear another smile at the thought of the young widow on the

blustery March morning who entered her usband's remains. "'Pshaw,' she said, 'now isn't it just like

George to throw his ashes all over my new dangerous?" Kirmanshah rug!"

LENTEN FARE. of the meetings of the Board of Education but the Florida alligator is as harmless

in New York, said, apropos of severity in literally as harmless, as a cow." "These over-severe teachers always re

mind me of an over-severe parson. He, at a dinner party during Lent, said to one of The oak had a big cavity in the trunk, the guests, a famous raconteur: "'My dear sir, as it is Lent-and a Fri- | toom; gouge the tree dentist cleaned out the soft day to boot-would you mind if I asked

SOAP BUBBLES.

the invention back to Italy. They manu-

THE MISUNDERSTOOD GATOR.

incinerating plants.

sportsman said:

waded into the water up to his chin. The in case of a strike; boy felt about with his feet in the mud till he found a big 'gator. Then he ducked Philadelphia & Reading. Abrams. drawing room to find that the wind had overturned the vase which contained her overturned the vase which contained her lens."

Penn. Philadelphia & Reading. Port Richmond, Philadelphia & Reading. lens.

"Not a bit."

"But I thought alligators ate you!" "No, no," said the sportsman. "You ar confusing the alligator with the crocodile. Egerton L. Winthrop, at the end of one The Indian crocodile eats men and women,

BRUTAL.

Vice-President Sherman, in an intervie in Washington, said of the smashing of a

you to confine your efforts exclusively to tal, so cruel, it reminds me of Marrit's refish stories?" "Marrit's wife, at the end of the usual

> behind the coffee urn, and, as she searched for her handkerchief, wailed:

breakfast table quarrel, burst into tears

Penn. 150,000
Delaware & Hudson, Delanson, N. Y. 120,000
Central Railroad of New Jersey,
Hampton Junction, N. J. 480,000
Central Railroad of New Jersey,
Salem, Mass. Salem, Mass, Lenigh Valley, South Plainfield, N. J. Lenigh Valley, Ransom, Penn. Lehigh Valley, Black Creek Junction.

Jan, Penu. usquehanna Coal Company, Old Bridge, N. J. ennsylvania Coal Company, Newburg.

In the face of a possible strike it may